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A Mistake.

In another column of this issue of the WATCHMAN will be found the list of persons who have properly registered as candidates and are eligible to be voted for at the coming Democratic primaries.

No story will ever fully describe the horror of the scene. As compared with the destruction of Pompeii must have been far less agonizing and other catastrophes of ancient times but trifling.

The crater of Mont Pelee had been wearing its "smoke cap" since May 3rd, but there was nothing until last Monday to indicate that there was the slightest danger.

In our estimation this precedent if once established will be one that will breed eternal contention and trouble. It will prevent the selection of such men as will best fill the positions, and will limit the choice of the Democrats of the county to those only who may make themselves candidates for the places, or to the persons the chairman may see proper to register.

The WATCHMAN protests against any such an understanding, of the rule referred to, as is implied in the chairman's recognition of its application to other than candidates for county offices.

There is one way, however, for the Democracy to defeat any such an interpretation of its requirements. If they do not find the men registered who they think are the proper persons for the positions sought, they do not need to vote instructions to their delegates. This will leave the delegates free to select the best men they can find for such places.

Quay the Absolute Boss.

The progress of the campaign for the Republican nomination for Governor reveals the fact that QUAY'S control of the party is more absolute than ever. Until he interfered everything was running toward ELKIN.

If this change had been in favor of a man who was conspicuously fit for the office it would not be surprising. If the candidate chosen by QUAY had been a man illustrious on account of distinguished public services, the change would have been a token of civic virtue.

Nevertheless, because he defended QUAY against a more than usually caustic criticism, he is to be made the candidate of his party for Governor. After a series of unusually bold political immoralities a writer in the North American Review held QUAY up to popular abhorrence as a type of the most odious of the political bosses of the country.

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The Most Appalling Disaster in Modern Times.

30,000 PEOPLE KILLED IN A TWINKLING.

The Entire City of St. Pierre Destroyed and Half the Island of Martinique Buried Under Molten Lava Belched forth from the Volcanic Mt. Pelee. Even Worse than the Destruction of Pompeii.—All of the West Indies Islands Threatened.

History scarcely affords a parallel to the frightful fate that overtook the thirty or more thousand residents of St. Pierre, the principal city of the island of Martinique, one of the chain of the Lesser Antilles, last Thursday morning, May 8th.

When I looked at St. Pierre the sight was terrifying. The city was gone and in its place was a long stretch of gray, smoking, flaming dust.

Between us and them and the shore dead bodies floated singly and in groups. Some hours afterward, I didn't know how long it was then, but I've since been told it was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the French cruiser Souchet steamed in and rescued 17 of us more dead than alive.

The escape of my vessel was miraculous. The woodwork of the cabins and bridge and everything inflammable on deck were constantly igniting. It was with great difficulty that we few survivors managed to keep the flames down.

As quickly as possible in the confusion the government authorities and the mayor of the city realized what need there was to organize some system for carrying help to those known to be in dire distress.

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had been hurriedly put together, and that he died there. All this time the sea was rolling like the heaviest kind of groundswell. Pelee was roaring, and the air was full of stinging shocks.

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from the neighborhood of the village of Le Precheur. They were entirely without shelter when found, but none burned or wounded.

Among the families of St. Pierre which have entirely disappeared are those of the governor of Martinique, including Mme. Mouttet, his wife; Lieutenant Colonel Gerhault and his wife.

Every ship in the harbor at the time of the disaster with the single exception of the English steamer Roddam, was burned, with all on board lost excepting one captain, who was saved.

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and small ships and houses strewn the surface of the sea. Huge trees and too often bodies, with flocks of sea gulls soaring above and hideous sharks fighting about them, were floating here and there.

Behind the volcanic veil came blasts of hot wind, mingled with others, ice cold. At Le Precheur, five miles north of St. Pierre, canoes with men and women, frantic to get away, begged for a passage on the steamer.

The whole north end of the island was covered with a silver gray coating of ashes resembling dirty snow. Furious blasts of fire, ashes and mud swept over the steamer, but finally St. Pierre was reached.

With great difficulty a landing was effected. No one house was left intact. Viscid heaps of mud, of brighter ashes or piles of volcanic stones, were seen on every side.

In one corner twenty-two bodies of men, women and children were mingled in one awful mass, arms and legs protruding as the hapless beings fell in the last struggles of death's agony.

Careful inspection showed that the fiery stream, which so completely destroyed St. Pierre must have been composed of poisonous gases which instantly suffocated every one who inhaled them, and of other gases burning furiously, for nearly all the victims had their hands covering their mouths or were in some other attitude, showing that they had sought relief from suffocation.

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remains of a horse and man were passed. Further on was seen the body of a man at the foot of a statue of the Virgin. He apparently had been killed while praying.

A large statue of the Virgin on a hill above St. Pierre was hurled yards distant from its base. This, together with the fact that huge trees were torn up by their roots and laid flat, scarce one being left standing and other indications show that the wave of fire must have passed over this section of the island at extreme hurricane velocity.

ONLY STONE HOUSES REMAIN. Every house in St. Pierre, not excepting those that were most solidly built of stone are absolutely in ruin.

Your correspondent visited the sight where the cathedral stood. A portion of the tower is still standing. The large bell lies in the center of the ruins.

A family here is imminent. The northern section of the island is depopulated. Provisions are needed here immediately for 10,000 people.

The United States government tug Potomac leaves here to-night for the Island of St. Vincent, where conditions are reported to be worse.

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